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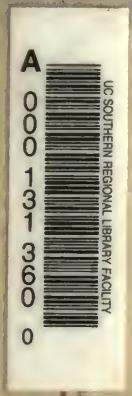

MESSAGE OF ADOLF KRAUS

President of the Executive Committee

OF THE

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF B'NAI B'RITH

TO THE

CONSTITUTION GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

AT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL, 1910.

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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

To the Constitution Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, in Convention Assembled:

For your worthy consideration, the following report of matters affecting the Order, and of its activities in relation thereto during the five preceding years, is respectfully submitted by the undersigned.

Shortly after the last Convention of the Order adjourned, through the efforts of the President of our Country, a Peace Conference was held at Portsmouth between the representatives of the Governments of Russia and Japan. When the Russian Government selected its representative, your Executive Committee was of the opinion that, although the Kishineff petition signed by leading men of this Republic, regardless of creed, had no visible effect upon the Russian Government, another attempt should be made to bring to the notice of that government the sentiment of the American people concerning the atrocities which were being continuously committed in the land of the Czar against our unfortunate co-religionists, and that even if the effort should again be unsuccessful, it was worth while undertaking, on the theory "Steter Tropfen hoehlt den Stein."

I therefore requested Baron Schlippenbach who was then the Russian Consul at Chicago, to arrange if possible, an interview with the Russian envoy, in order that we might again present through him, to the Russian Government, our grievances.

The Baron kindly undertook the task, and on August 2, 1905, wired me from New York, as follows:

"You and party will be received with pleasure. At your arrival will appoint time. I think Friday evening, after the return from Presidential call."

2095192

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On August 3, I wired to Messrs. Jacob H. Schiff, Oscar Strauss, Simon Wolf, Julius Bien and J. B. Klein, requesting them to meet me in New York on the Friday following, for the purpose of calling on M. de Witte. On the day appointed, Baron Schlippenbach and Mr. Gregory Wilenkin, the latter a financial agent of the Russian government and official interpreter to M. de Witte, called to see me at the hotel in New York, and when it was ascertained that the gentlemen to whom I had wired, with the exception of Bro. Klein, were unable to meet us in New York, it was agreed we should be notified of a later time when M. de Witte would meet us. The meeting took place at Portsmouth, on August 14, 1905. There were present at that interview, Count Witte, Baron Rosen, Russian Ambassador, and Mr. Gregory Wilenkin as official interpreter, on the one side, and Messrs. Schiff, Strauss, Seligman, Lewisohn and myself on the other. Mr. Wilenkin is a Russian Jew.

The conference lasted for several hours and the subject matter thereof in its various phases, was thoroughly discussed.

Opinions as to Count Witte may differ. I am free to state that he made a very favorable impression on me.

Subsequent events proved that our efforts, like the Kishineff petition, were of little benefit to our people, excepting in so far as they may have constituted a link in the chain of events which must ultimately, even in Russia, end in liberty of conscience for our people. But I will say without hesitation, it is my belief that if Count Witte could have prevented the subsequent massacres, they would not have taken place.

Our efforts on behalf of the Russian Jews were gratefully recognized by what might be termed the older generation of Russian Jews in this country, but not so by some of the younger element which looked for the salvation of the Jews of Russia by means of a revolution. Our action was denounced by them in fiery speeches. They wanted to know by what right we interfered. They expected to gain their rights through revolution and the Duma, and not through means which suggested to them the bowed head and the bended back.

Nearly five years have gone by since then. The revolution. if it is revolving at all, is doing so in discreet but ineffectual silence, and the Duma continues to do the will of the Czar.

Those who know the gentlemen who were present at that interview, know well, that none of them went there with bowed heads or bended backs, but spoke in a manly way, as citizens of one country to the representative of another. Not one of them has seen fit to pay any attention to the clamor made by the misguided young men against their action, and it is with some hesitation that I at this late day refer to anything that was said. Yet in view of the fact that I instigated the meeting, I think it is due to the other gentlemen to say, that no manifestations of humility were indulged in by any of them. If anything, the Conference at times took almost an extreme opposite direction. To illustrate: Mr. Schiff at one time turned to M. de Witte, now Count Witte, with the following question: "Will you please tell me why you as a Russian have all the rights in that country which are given to any one, and why this man (pointing to Mr. Wilenkin), has no rights whatsoever? Is it because you as a man are a better man than he?"

At the interview Count Witte informed us that it was the intention of the Government to grant a National Assembly to which the Jews would have a right to elect and be elected. That was the first information received in this country of the then intention of the Russian Government in that regard.

Although great relief was expected from this National Assembly, none came. The historical facts concerning this so-called National Assembly need not be here dwelt upon.

On my return home from Portsmouth, I received the following letter:

"NEW CASTLE, N. H., August 17, 1905.

"*Dear Mr. Kraus*: I am officially instructed by his Excellency, Mon. de Witte, to inform you and the gentlemen who met him with you, that after your departure he cabled to St. Petersburg in order to inquire whether any changes were made in connection with the articles concerning 'the rights of the Jews to elect and be elected in the proposed National Assembly.' His Excellency received by cable answer that no changes

took place and that the project is approved by his Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, and will be published very shortly. Therefore this cable confirms Mon. Witte's statement that the Jews will have the same right as the rest of the population to elect and be elected in the National Assembly. I remain,

"Sincerely yours,

"GREGORY WILENKIN."

That appeared very encouraging. The Peace Conference between Russia and Japan was signed. M. de Witte returned home and was honored by the czar, who conferred the title of Count upon him and appointed him Premier.

Revolutionists kept the Government busy for a while, and the terrible massacres of that year took place, instigated, according to general belief, by government officials. The civilized world was horrified, but the conscience of the Russian government was not awakened. The horrible deeds committed demonstrated to us how little we could do to aid our unfortunate brethren in that land. I sent the following telegram:

"CHICAGO, November 6, 1905.

"*Jacob H. Schiff, New York:*

"It seems to me useless, in present condition of Russia, to make any appeals to that government or ours for the purpose of stopping the massacres, and that the only question to be considered is, what can be done to alleviate the Russian Jewish distress? Do you agree with me? If not, please give me your views. If you do agree with me, shall I invite all National Jewish Organizations in this land to co-operate in a general appeal for funds? If you think this is right, will you act as National Treasurer? Please wire.

"ADOLF KRAUS."

Failing to receive an answer that day from Mr. Schiff, on the following day I wired to the Presidents of each of the National Jewish Organizations for consent to attach their names to an appeal for funds. Consent was promptly received on the same day. On November 8, I sent the following appeal by wire, and it was published by the Associated Press:

"The victims of the awful riots and massacres in Russia are not all numbered with the dead. The living, starving survivors who have lost their bread-winners, and the maimed, mutely appeal to a pitying world

for aid. Therefore each community is hereby requested to organize at once and without further notice, for the purpose of raising funds to aid these destitute living victims. Funds, when collected, may be forwarded to Mr. Jacob H. Schiff, of New York, for proper distribution.''

ADOLF KRAUS,
President Independent Order of B'nai B'rith.
SAMUEL WOOLNER,
President of Union of American Hebrew Congregations.
MRS. HENRY SOLOMON,
President Council of Jewish Women.
DR. H. PEREIRA MENDES,
President of Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations in the United States and Canada.
DR. JOSEPH STOLZ,
President of Central Conference of American Rabbis.
DR. HARRY FRIEDENWALD,
President of Federation of American Zionists.
MAX STERN,
Grand Master Independent Order B'rith Abraham.
SAMUEL DORF,
Grand Master Order B'rith Abraham.

On November 7 a meeting was held in the city of New York at which Mr. Schiff was elected treasurer, to receive the contributions. The organization there formed, sent out an appeal for funds about the same time that our appeal was issued. There was collected by the Order in the seven American districts, the sum of $44,143.97, which was forwarded to Mr. Schiff. This does not include the personal contributions of members to the local committees in the different cities, which no doubt exceed the contributions made through the Order by a very large sum.

Money was raised also among the Jews in all lands, to alleviate the suffering of our co-religionists in Russia, in so far as money could do it.

As to the responsibility for the murders, robberies, and inhuman and unmentionable crimes committed against the Jews of that land, it may perhaps be sufficient to say that the Government in Russia has full control over the press in that country and can suppress and does suppress any newspaper which publishes anything not satisfactory to the government; and yet the

anti-semitic press of that land freely and without any punishment invited the people to commit those crimes. The same press threatened a new massacre for Easter, 1906. Judging from the past, I could not help but believe that, if precautions were not taken against it, another massacre would take place at Easter, and so on February 15, 1906, I wrote the following letter to Count de Witte:

"CHICAGO, February 15, 1906.

"*Count de Witte, St. Petersburg, Russia.*

"YOUR EXCELLENCY: You will doubtless remember the interview held in Portsmouth between yourself, Messrs. Schiff, Seligman, Strauss, Lewisohn and myself. And when in the city of New York three of us bid you a safe return to your home, you stated that we might write you at any time on the subject of our previous discussion. Accordingly, I now avail myself of the permission so kindly given.

"It is useless to dwell at any length on the terrible massacres of Jews in Russia, for the details are much better known to you than to me. Your Excellency will perhaps remember my suggestion that if those who so wantonly massacred the Jews, or aided and abetted in the murders, were swiftly and adequately punished, it would be such a warning to others, and such a clear declaration as to the position of the government as would tend to diminish greatly the probability of a repetition of the horrors. That we have not read of any strong measures taken to punish the perpetrators of the late crimes, may be due to the fact that the government felt its first duty was to subdue the riots, or it may be due to the insufficiency of the information which the press has been able to obtain. But, whatever the cause, the fact has caused widespread alarm in this country that the massacre of Jews in Russia is to continue, and the opinion is becoming prevalent that no Jew's life is safe in that great country. As a result of the growing opinion that if the lives and property of Jews are not to be safeguarded in the land in which their ancestors have lived for generations, and of which your Excellency is Prime Minister, a movement is being seriously contemplated, if it can be accomplished according to law, for the removal of the Jews from Russia, or at least of as many as possible, to other lands where they will be permitted to die a natural death. If the plans for such a movement are put into effect, the Society over which I preside will take an active part. The immensity of such an undertaking is fully realized and it should be executed only as a last resort.

"I am, therefore, emboldened to address myself to you for the information upon which our action may depend, if it will be deemed proper in your Excellency's judgment, that such information should be given, and it is this: Now, since it appears that the government has restored peace in its land, is the government in position to protect the lives and property of Jews, equally with that of the Christians, and to punish officials, who fail to do their duty in not taking the proper measures for the protection of the Jews, so as to prevent further massacres?

"I desire to avoid, by the question I have asked, any offense to your Excellency, for it must be taken for granted that it is the intention of the government to protect the lives of all of its subjects. My apology for the inquiry is the fact that Jews have been massacred in the past in your land, and that reports are now published in the newspapers here that it is contemplated to have the greatest massacre of Jews in your land at Easter time the world has ever seen, and that it is generally believed that unless the government is in position to stretch out its mighty arm and to fully protect the Jews, the Jews in Russia are doomed.

"I have the honor to remain,

"With respect,

"ADOLF KRAUS,

"*President Executive Committee Independent Order of B'nai B'rith.*"

On March 14th following, I received the following cable from St. Petersburg:

"*Adolf Kraus:*

"I am sure you have no doubts that I cannot approve violence, no matter against whom it is directed. The deplorable events which have taken place were the result of riots. You may be persuaded Government will use all possible measures to prevent violence against peaceable inhabitants, without regard to what nationality they belong.

"COUNT WITTE."

The following day the Associated Press published a dispatch from St. Petersburg to the effect that the Czar was reported to have been shocked and amazed at the revelations of Jewish oppression made to him, and as a result Premier de Witte was able to force the Minister of the Interior, Duronovo, to issue instructions to prevent further massacres of the Jews, and to prosecute all persons guilty of instigating them.

On March 16th I cabled to Count Witte thanks for his cable of March 14th and stated that unless instructed to the contrary, I would publish his cablegram. On the 17th, the correspondence was published. There was no blood shed on Russian Easter.

On April 25th the Chicago Daily News published the following cable from its correspondent in St. Petersburg:

"The publication of a letter written by Adolf Kraus, of Chicago, and Premier Witte's reply thereto has caused a sensation in Russia. The entire press recognizes the Chicagoan's communication as statesmanlike and humane."

"A gentleman who is prominent in Jewish circles and is a member-elect of the first Douma, which is soon to assemble, said to the Daily News correspondent to-day: 'Mr. Kraus' letter was timely, in that it induced the authorities to take measures for saving the lives and property of Jews in Russia.'"

Favorable comments upon the action were published in most of the European papers. Since then Premier Witte has been removed from office. Whatever opinion our people may have of Count Witte I am confident that nothing was gained for humanity by his removal from office.

Shortly after the massacres took place, a movement was started in this country to raise a fund for the purpose of enabling the Jews of Russia to buy weapons to defend themselves against attacks and to sell their lives, when attacked, as dearly as possible. That movement found many sympathizers, for there is an inherent desire in all men to give an opportunity to those attacked to defend themselves.

The question was presented to your Executive Committee for action, and after a careful consideration, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"We condemn and denounce the atrocities and outrages committed upon our unfortunate co-religionists in Russia, and pledge our best efforts to promote all legitimate measures for their relief. We, however, favor only the employment of moral forces and legal instrumentalities, and discountenance any organized effort upon the part of our co-religionists outside of Russia, which

would directly or indirectly tend to aggravate the present disorders of that country."

That this position of the Executive Committee was sound, was subsequently demonstrated when the government of Russia caused the houses and synagogues of our co-religionists to be searched, and finding some guns and ammunition, confiscated the same and used that fact as an argument against granting just laws to our people, claiming that the arms and ammunition found was evidence of their revolutionary tendencies.

One of the results of the Pogrom was that many children were made orphans. To the credit of the Jews everywhere be it said that every community was willing to take care of some of them. Our Government kindly consented to allow the Pogrom orphans to be landed. The lodges were more than willing to take care of the orphans. Arrangements were made in different cities to find homes for those unfortunate children. But the lodges in the American Districts were not given a chance to take care of them, as it was found that their services in that regard were not needed. The children were promptly taken care of.

In visiting the Orphan Home in Hamburg, maintained by the local lodge there, I saw the brethren point with pride and affection to two of the Pogrom boys in that Home—the only two boys assigned to that city. They stood first and second in their classes.

In this connection extract from the report of the B'nai B'rith Grand Lodge of Germany is of interest. It reads as follows:

Of the 120 Pogrom-orphans who had to be taken to a new home, 53 found loving shelter in southern and western Germany, through the intervention of the Grand Lodge, while five other orphans were placed in Ahlem, by the Alliance Israelite Universelle. The rest came to America.

In order that these children, who were bereft of their parents, should not find themselves as utter strangers in the new home, heed was taken at the assignment that brothers and sisters should be placed, if possible, in one and the same city, or at least near one another. In this considerate manner family ties were kept intact, as much as the existing conditions would permit. So were six children of one family from

Byalistok, the youngest of whom was one year old, all placed in Frankfurt o. t. M., another six brothers and sisters from Byalistok, in Ahlem, and four brothers and sisters, from Ekaterinoslav, in Ihringer, a small provincial town on the Kaiserstuhl. And not only the tender family ties were considered, but also in regard to religion the wishes of the relatives were respected as much as possible.

Naturally our work for and our interest in these children has not ceased with having placed them. They are still continually under the protection of the Grand Lodge. For the Conference at Frankfurt o. t. M., held on the 4th and 5th of January, 1906, has bestowed the honorable duty upon the Grand Lodge to watch over the present prosperity and the future fate of these orphans. For this purpose the Grand Lodge has aranged record books wherein everything concerning the children placed in Germany is recorded, and has appointed correspondents in the places of the asylums, who submit reports to it at least once a year, regarding the physical and mental development of the children. The reports received up to date are very favorable. On all sides the facts are emphasized that the children have speedily adapted themselves to their new surroundings and have made remarkable progress in German; that by their conduct at home they have given no cause for complaint to their foster parents and in school they are praised by the teachers for application and ability. * * * *

Thanks to the efforts of the Lodges one of the present Pogrom orphans, a charming little girl, Marika the nameless, three years old, was taken in charge by a childless married couple and later, when the girl will reach legal age, she may be adopted. The rest of the children are placed in Altona, Breslaw, Koeln (Aix-la-Chapelle), Dortmund, Leipzig, Magdebug, Rybnick and Wisbaden. * * * *

There is a saying of our old teachers which reads as follows: "To him who begins a good work should be said, 'Carry it to an end.'" At the Conference at Frankfurt we were entrusted by the respective organizations with the care of the Pogrom orphans. Two years ago we succeeded in providing for 53 children; we will now do the same with equal zeal for the still remaining 12 children.

In its report of 1907, page 100, the Hilfsverein expresses itself in the following manner regarding our relief work for the Russian orphans: "The greatest part of the children, nearly one-half of all the orphan children, 58 in number, were placed in Germany. Thanks to the encompassing care of the Grand Lodge for Germany, it became possible to find places of shelter for all these good children. All the individual lodges supported the Grand Lodge most zealously in its endeavor to create good shelters for the children. They are also well cared for by a number of Jewish communities, especially by Frankfort o. t. M., in

which city alone 12 Russian orphans are receiving the best of care.

* * * *

On Sept. 21, 1909, the press published that a great massacre of Jews had taken place at Kiev. We acted promptly. The following telegrams need no explanation:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 21, 1909.

Adolf Kraus, Chicago.

Washington papers report massacre at Kiev Russia. Suggest that you cable Berlin and keep me advised. SIMON WOLF.

CHICAGO, Sept. 22, 1909.

Justizrat Timendorfer, Berlin.

Newspapers report great massacre Kiev. Consult Hilfsverein, cable me whether massacre authentic, whether American help needed.

KRAUS.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22, 1909.

Adolf Kraus, Chicago.

Renewed cablegrams from Berlin reaffirm yesterday's statement State Department at my request representing Union and Order cabled Rockhill at St. Petersburg secure confirmatory news. Will keep you advised.

SIMON WOLF.

BERLIN, Sept. 23, 1909.

Kraus, Chicago.

Auf unserer Veranlassung hat Hilfsverein in Kiev angefragt und drei Antworten erhalten dass nichts daran ist. WOLFF.

The Berlin representative of the Alliance Israelite Universelle wired;

BERLIN, Sept. 23, 1909.

Kraus, Chicago.

Kiev keine Stoerungen vorgekommen. KLAUSNER.

CHICAGO, Sept. 23, 1909.

Simon Wolf, Washington.

Hilfsverein cables Kiev keine Stoerungen vorgekommen.

KRAUS.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, 1909.

Kraus, Chicago.

State Department says important demonstrations in suburb of Kiev on eighth of September which the police quickly suppressed. No Americans killed or anyone else seriously injured. SIMON WOLF.

IMMIGRATION.

One of the natural results of the Pogroms was a large emigration of the persecuted Jews to other lands, principally to this country. With the large immigration, new problems have arisen and will from time to time arise, but which will in due course of time, as the immigrants become assimilated, be properly solved to their welfare, as well as to the welfare of our country.

There are among all classes of men, narrow-minded individuals who, enjoying the rights of freedom under a just government, are not willing that others should have equal opportunities. Some of them are actuated by selfish motives, others by what they term patriotic motives, but in each case the motive is ill-considered.

Among those who may be considered well-meaning but ill-advised, are those who, while claiming to aim to exclude the foreign criminal, favor immigration laws so strict that they would also make the landing upon our hospitable shores, of law abiding people, who are fleeing from persecution, impossible. This country always has been and always should remain the haven of the oppressed and persecuted, but it ought not to be the "holy of holies" to which the criminals of other lands can flee and find refuge. Any restrictive law which will keep out of this land the criminals of other lands, idiots, insane persons, paupers, persons afflicted with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, anarchists, or persons coming here for immoral purposes will meet with the hearty approval of all of us, but laws which are calculated to keep out of this country healthy immigrants, of good moral character, simply because they have not a certain amount of capital are contrary to the spirit and traditions of our country. The so-called Dillingham-Gardner Immigration Bill more

fully referred to in our Report of 1906-7 was one which contained many objectionable features.

Reports from Washington seemed to indicate that the bill was about to become a law. I wired the American districts of the Order to obtain from their leading citizens, regardless of creed, their views upon the pending bill and have them wired to their respective Congressmen. Protests against the bill poured in so rapidly to Washington that the pending bill was defeated. The Liberal Immigration League of which our distinguished member, Edward Lauterbach, Esq., is President, in their annual report, generously gave much credit to our Order for the defeat of that bill.

One of the problems which we have to contend with, arising out of the great immigration, is what to do with the unfortunates who are not classed as undesirables and yet are ordered deported by the Government. It often happens that certain members of a family are admitted, while others are refused admission. The feelings of the members of the family thus severed can easily be imagined. Many of the orders of deportation are based on the theory that the person ordered deported may become a public charge, owing to feeble health or advanced age. This objection may be overcome if proper security be given to the Government that such person will not become a public charge.

We have undertaken to protect as far as it is in our power desirable immigrants who, without such protection, would be sent back to endure new miseries and hardships. In this work Bro. Simon Wolf has rendered the Order and humanity great service. In the last two years he perfected appeals in 95 cases of immigrants, affecting 213 persons, who intended to come to Chicago, but were ordered deported, and in 76 of those cases, affecting 173 persons, he succeeded in having the judgment of the lower Tribunal reversed and the immigrants were permitted to land. In one case, the order permitting an immigrant to land came from Washington after the steamship on which the immigrant was, had started on the return European trip. A Revenue

Cutter chased the steamer, caught up with it and took off the immigrant, and he was landed. The happiness of that man, after landing on American soil where all his children reside must be to Brother Wolf a great recompense for his arduous labor on behalf of the immigrants.

One of the well recognized problems arising out of the immigration question is how best to remove the immigrants from the large centers of population in order to avoid over-crowding, and enable the new arrivals to get a good start in life. This work was originally undertaken by the Order under the leadership of the lamented Leo N. Levi, who, through the lodges in the cities in the West and South, established committees to take care of the immigrants. The names of the persons constituting these committees were transferred to the New York Industrial Removal Office, under whose auspices the bulk of the removal work is now done. The removal office forms no part of the machinery of the Order. However, the lodges, whenever called upon, have always cheerfully aided the removal committee, and in many cities the work of taking care of immigrants is almost exclusively in the hands of members of the Order.

This problem, what to do with the newly arrived immigrants, is of such increasingly serious importance as to commend itself to the earnest consideration of the convention. The constant accretions to the already badly congested districts in the seaport towns, towards which these immigrants are naturally drawn, makes a continuous and more difficult problem of that which might otherwise, in the efflux of time find its own solution. Something should be done to distribute these immigrants before they become permanently settled in such districts. I recommend that the matter be referred to a committee to consider, and if possible,

formulate some practicable plan whereby this desirable result may in some measure be attained.

CONFERENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS.

One of the results of the Pogroms was an agitation favoring the creation of some organization to represent, speak and act on behalf of the Jews of this country. Those who were loudest in demanding the creation of such an organization, would, under normal conditions, have been the first to denounce the movement; but in the very helplessness of our people against the desperate condition of our persecuted brethren, any movement which might have given the remotest chance for relief, was eagerly grasped at, and consequently the idea of creating such a body was given serious consideration. In the opinion of your Executive Committee, it was not deemed necessary that such a body be created. Later when the Executive Committee of the Order met in Chicago, other organizations were invited by wire to meet with them; and on December 17, 1905, representatives of the following organizations presented themselves at the Conference:

Independent Order of B'nai B'rith.
Union of American Hebrew Congregations.
Central Conference of American Rabbis.
Federation of American Zionists.
Order B'rith Abraham.
Independent Order Free Sons of Israel.
Sons of Benjamin.
National Conference of Jewish Charities.
National Russian Relief Association.
Industrial Removal Office.
Chicago Russian Jewish Press.
Independent Western Star Order.

At that meeting the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, that we are opposed to any amendment of the law which shall increase the head tax on immigrants."

The following was also adopted:

"Representatives of National Jewish Organizations convened for conference in the city of Chicago, stirred by horror at the massacres in Russia, are convinced that if the humane sentiments of sympathy which actuate the hearts of all men without distinction of creed or nation, were expressed as it should be and as it has not as yet been adequately expressed, such outrageous murders and persecutions would soon come to an end. We call upon all who deplore these inhumanities to make their sympathy effective by urging those in influence and authority in Church and State to bring about concerted action by the nations to declare such atrocities as have been perpetrated upon the Jews in Russia to be violations of the principles upon which the intercourse of the nations is founded. They are contrary to the law of God and man as interpreted by the teachings of Religion, and as rooted in the moral consciousness of this enlightened twentieth century."

Resolutions were also unanimously passed, thanking the Executive Committee of the B'nai B'rith for calling the conference.

By this meeting it was demonstrated how easily and quickly united action could be obtained by existing organizations and therefore it was believed that the clamor for a new organization would cease. It was also believed that the creation of a new body would lead to duplication and therefore to waste of energy; that to unite existing organizations for prompt action on behalf of our persecuted brothers in foreign lands was commendable, but to create a new body "to promote the welfare of Judaism" and to speak for American Jewry would be not only inexcusable, but dangerous; that in short, American Jews needed no organization to speak for all of them. It was found however that the agitation for the creation of a new body did not cease. The question was once

more presented to the Executive Committee and by it considered, and the following resolution was adopted:

"Be it Resolved, that the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith while rigidly maintaining its separate identity in the fulfillment of the tasks it has undertaken, nevertheless, stands ready to cooperate temporarily in all critical emergencies with other recognized Jewish organizations for the achievement of immediate results in matters affecting the Jewish cause. At the same time, this Executive Committee deems it antagonistic to the principles of the Order and subversive of its mission to enter into any permanent alliance or federation with other institutions limited in their scope and lacking the universality which has ever characterized the B'nai B'rith."

While in Europe, I made arrangements with the leading Jewish organizations of England, Germany, France and Austria for the prompt mutual furnishing by cable of any information required; and they will advise us as to any matter in which our assistance may be required.

It may not be amiss to state that while we are here in session, an International Conference is being held in the city of London to determine the best means of combating the White Slave Traffic. To that Conference we were invited, and we have a representative there in attendance.

SAN FRANCISCO DISASTER.

On April 18, 1906, the city of San Francisco was visited by an earthquake of exceptional violence, which was followed by a conflagration lasting about three days. As soon as the news of the disaster reached us, I sent telegrams and received answers as follows:

"CHICAGO, April 18, 1906.

"*Lucius L. Solomons, 503 California Street,*
San Francisco, Cal.:

"Press brings meager reports of great calamity in your city. Am ready to make appeal for help to the Order or all our people as may be needed. If help wanted wire as fully as possible."

"ADOLF KRAUS."

CHICAGO, April 19, 1906.

(To Each District):

"Wire forthwith each Jewish community in your District to collect funds for relief of sufferers in San Francisco. Such funds to be sent to Treasurer of your District. As soon as Relief Committee in San Francisco appointed to take charge of money will advise you. You can wire at expense of Executive Committee."

"ADOLF KRAUS."

"SAN FRANCISCO, April 21-22, 1906.

"*Adolf Kraus, Grand President Const. Grand Lodge B'nai B'rith, 4518 Drexel Blvd.:*

"Destruction complete, earthquake and fire destitution among our people awful. What can you do for immediate relief? Wire five hundred fourteen Devisadero St."

"BEN SCHLOSS,
"*Grand Prest.*"

"CHICAGO, April 23, 1906.

"*Ben Schloss, 514 Devisadero Street, San Francisco, Cal.:*

"Wired you appoint yourself, Solomons and Voorsanger or others as well known Committee to distribute funds and wire me names and addresses. Have received no answer. Wire also name New York correspondent of Oakland Bank so money may be wired you."

"ADOLF KRAUS."

"SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., April 26, 1906.

"*Adolf Kraus, Constitution Grand Prest. Independent Order B'nai B'rith, Chicago, Ill.:*

"Completely burned out and property destroyed. Our members impoverished and suffering for everything. What can you do? How much and how quick? Answer wire five fourteen Devisadero St.'

"BEN SCHLOSS,
"*Grand Prest. District No. 4.*"

"San Francisco, Cal., April 26, 1906.

"*Adolf Kraus, Constitution Grand President Independent Order B'nai B'rith, Chicago, Ill.:*

"First dispatch received from you this minute. Committee Ben Schloss, Doctor Jacob Voorsanger, M. S. Levy, Lucius Solomons, Edward Tauszky. Draw through any New York bank on any San Francisco bank. Can arrange to cash credits."

"Ben Schloss,
"*Grand President District No. 4.*"

We received and forwarded promptly to the sufferers the sum of $22,006.29. This was a special fund from the members of the Order to the San Francisco members, to enable such as needed the assistance to begin the battle of life anew.

AID TO ROUMANIAN SUFFERERS.

Shortly after the San Francisco earthquake, a report reached us of the persecution of Jews in Roumania. I received from a source, unnecessary to mention, but which I consider reliable, the following report:

"In the beginning of March of this year, signs of an Anti-Semitic movement were noticed along the Moldavia. The authorities remained passive and so it came about that one day several hundred peasants entered the little town of Poduloaci near Jassy and plundered according to their hearts' desire. All stores kept by Jews were destroyed and robbed, and the Jews, including women and children, were maltreated. One Jew received serious injury. The rioting began at one o'clock in the afternoon. At three in the afternoon a major in charge of 100 men of cavalry stationed in the town, fired three revolver shots into the air and immediately as though this had been a signal agreed upon, the plundering stopped. 128 Jewish families in that town suffered a loss of 100,000 francs, which, considering the poverty of the people, was a considerable sum. A very few days afterwards a similar occurrence was reported in the City of Botoschani, only in a greater degree. 1,159 families lost their property amounting to half a million francs, 21 Jews were wounded and had to be taken to the hospital.

"After that the Anti-Semitic movement spread with lightning rapidity over the entire Moldavia. After Botoschani, where the poor Jews, for fear of personal violence, hid in cellars for two days and where Jewish merchants did not reopen their stores for ten days, the Jews

in the town of Vordugeni were attacked in which 408 Jewish families suffered the loss of 611,000 francs. The Jews in the Towns of Buccecea and Bedeni were attacked. In the district of Botochani 1,886 Jewish families were plundered of property valued at 3,000,000 francs. In the District of Jassy the Jewish inhabitants of Bivolari and Tziganaschi, in all 107 families, suffered a loss of 100,000 francs. Similar treatment was accorded to the Jews in Pungesti, Negresti, Panciu, Ivesti, Bacesti, Lespezi, Rosnov, Bozieni, Buhusi, Blagesti, Dragusceheni, Bujor and Rogojeni. In the Walachia similar attempts were made by the peasants but only in the City of Alexandria, inhabited by about 20 Jewish families, was the attack of an Anti-Semitic character. In that city the plundering was done by reservists. The destruction there was so thorough that a Jewish merchant who had a large porcelain and glassware store was compelled to borrow glasses from a neighbor for Passover. The damage to those few Jews who lived in that town amounted to about 200,000 francs. Their little Synagogue was destroyed and the Shochet who attempted to save the Torah was seriously injured. In all there were Anti-Semitic outbreaks in 16 Roumanian districts. The total number of families affected is 3,302. The damage is estimated at 2,679,050 francs and the total of persons injured is 45.

"Immediately after the outbreak of this Anti-Semitic movement the Jews living in the villages sought refuge in the larger cities, but when they wanted to return to their villages, the authorities did not permit them to do so. The position of those fugitives is critical as they have no prospect for work. The authorities not only did not allow the Jews to return to the villages in which they and their ancestors had lived for generations but even ordered them to leave the rural districts, including in that order, those who had done the state service in the army. Even Jews who were drafted in the army to quell the riots, when they returned to their respective villages, were ordered to leave.

"The question presents itself to us, what shall we do with those who are driven from their homes?

"On the 5th of May a conference took place in Vienna of the representatives of Organizations of other lands and representative Roumanians, to consider what aid can be given. It was decided to raise 500,000 francs. 125,000 francs has been forwarded from the United States from Roumanians residing there, 25,000 francs was contributed from Roumanians here. It is expected that Austria, Germany, France and England will contribute equal sums. It was decided to make good 15 per cent of the loss to each of our co-religionists. From the Roumanian government nothing is to be expected."

From documents in my possession, I am convinced that the claim made by the Government of Roumania, that the uprising of the peasants was general and not directed against the Jews, was not well founded; that the peasants and the Jews lived peaceably together, but that the peasants who were robbed of their labor by the nobility and officials, were instigated by such oppression to indulge in an Anti-Semitic movement and that there, as in Russia, the Jew had to suffer from the ignorant and uneducated for the sins which others committed against them.

I issued a call for aid and the Lodges contributed over 50,000 francs, which was promptly forwarded to Dr. Adolphe Stern, President of the District Grand Lodge No. 9, and member of the Executive Committee from that District. The money was thankfully acknowledged and was put to good purpose. For names of donors see Report for 1906-1907.

ATTACK ON JEWS IN JAFFA.

On March 30, 1908, I received the following cable:

"PORT SAID.

"*Adolf Kraus, Chicago.*

Atrocities against Jews at Jaffa by local Governor, 12 Russians, 1 American wounded, some fatally. Induce Government, instruct American Ambassador Constantinople intervene energetically."

This cable was signed by two members of the Order. Their names are suppressed for reasons which can easily be understood. Subsequently I received a letter giving details of the attack made against the Jews in the City of Jaffa, stating that it took place on March 16th; that owing to governmental supervision of the telegraph offices they were unable to send information out of Turkey, and so had to send a messenger to Port Said, from which place the cable was forwarded. On the same day that I received the cable, I sent the following telegram:

"March 30, 1908.

"*Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of State,*

Washington, D. C.:

"Just received cablegram signed by two leading and reliable co-religionists of Jerusalem and Jaffa, that atrocities have been committed against Jews of Jaffa by Local Governor that 12 Russians and 1 American were wounded, some fatally. Respectfully petition the Government to cause an investigation to be made by our Ambassador at Constantinople, as to the attack on American citizen, as such action may check further atrocities." "ADOLF KRAUS."

I also telegraphed the information to Bro. Simon Wolf, who called upon the State Department to urge compliance with my request. I received the following reply from the Department of State.

"April 2, 1908.

"*Mr. Adolf Kraus, President Executive Committee, Independent Order B'nai B'rith, Chicago, Ill.:*

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of the 30th ult. informing the department that atrocities have been committed against Jews in Jaffa by the local Governor, in the course of which one American was wounded, and asking that an investigation be made by the American Ambassador. In reply I have to say that on March 31 the Ambassador at Constantinople was instructed by telegraph to investigate and report regarding the matter.

"I am sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"ALVEY A. ADEE,

"*Second Asst. Secy.*"

Soon after the investigation was ordered by our Government the local Governor of Jaffa, who was an Anti-semite, was removed from office by the Sultan of Turkey and a new Governor, friendly to the Jews, was appointed in his place.

The President of one of our Lodges, on the date of June 13th, wrote me as follows:

"For your successful assistance in the Jaffa affair I desire to thank you, not only in the name of our lodges, but also desire to express to you the heartfelt thanks of all the Jews here. The fact that the

United States government demanded official information by cable was in itself sufficient to make a deep impression at Constantinople. And that government lost no time in disposing of the affair. A similar inquiry was made by the Secretary of the German government on the petition of the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden."

On May 12th, the Department of State sent me the following letter:

"Sir: In further reply to your telegram of the 30th of March last, regarding the attack on Jews at Jaffa on the 17th of the same month, in the course of which an American was wounded, I have to inform you that the Ambassador Leischman's report on the subject has been received, and shows that the disturbance was little more than a street or bar room fight and that the supposed American, Abraham M. Goldman, as to whose American citizenship there appears to be considerable doubt, was only slightly injured.

"I am sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"ROBERT BACON,

"*Assistant Secretary.*"

Our Ambassador's report indicates that our people at Jaffa are easily alarmed. It is evident that our country's Ambassador did not attach much importance to the occurrence. However, the fact remains that the people of Jaffa by the occurrence, gained a new Governor who appears to be a just man.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

About three years ago, a certain monthly magazine charged that a portion of the inhabitants of the so-called Ghetto in the city of Chicago make their living by trafficking in women. The charge came as a surprise and was looked upon as a venomous libel. It would be too much to expect that the Jews should be entirely free of offenses of which non-Jews are guilty, but the charge that the trafficking in women in the city of Chicago was largely in the hands of Jews, was so outrageously overdrawn that none believed it. An investigation disclosed as usual, the grain of truth in the husk of falsehood. The sinners were many and there were Jews amongst them.

A meeting of the leading members of the Order in that city was called, for the purpose of devising means of stamping out the traffic in the city of Chicago. It was found that there was no adequate law in the state of Illinois to punish the offenders. A committee was appointed to draft a suitable law. The law was introduced in the next State Legislature and was unanimously passed. Several other states have since then adopted the same or a similar law. A vigorous prosecution was begun against offenders and they were rapidly sent to jail. In the city of Chicago, of the arrests and convictions, about 20 per cent were Jews because owing to published articles in the magazine, the detectives concentrated their first efforts in attempts to arrest the Jews engaged in that traffic.

In my opinion, the combating of White Slavery is one of the most important of our undertakings. One State after the other is passing laws to punish panderers. Congress has undertaken to pass stringent laws. The people are aroused and justly so. It will not do for us to point to past records and deny that there are Jewish panderers or call for strict proof. Our efforts must be to the end that there shall be no Jewish panderers. Not even one should be tolerated. They must be sent to jail and to do penance. They must be ostracised. The Jews of the city of Omaha, under the leadership of members of the Order, succeeded in abolishing pandering in that city without adequate laws, by refusing those engaged in that traffic, all religious rights, even the right of burial in a Jewish cemetery. We owe it to ourselves as citizens of this country and to generations yet to come, to let no guilty person escape.

B'NAI B'RITH NEWS.

The President of the Order, in his report to the Convention of 1874, said the following:

"The time has come when provision ought to be made to establish a permanent medium of interchange of views and ideas between the various official branches of our Order and the members. The Order has reached an extension, geographically and numerically, beyond the

boldest anticipations of its early friends; its principles and policy are being more clearly defined; the objects it is in pursuit of are no longer concealed behind a vapory cloud but are brought out in bold and prominent relief; neither are we satisfied with hollow promises and pompous phrases in place of energetic measures for the realization of our educational and civilizing aspirations. The establishment of merely formal authorities, and the holding of periodical conventions are not strong enough to hold the vast body of men together, to keep the spiritual and fraternal bond intact, and the harmony unbroken. The hopes, aspirations, aims and purposes of the Order require a medium wherein they can be embodied, defined, discussed. We must have a press organ, which would offer to every official body such as Lodges, Grand Lodges, and the general executive authority, the means of rapid and constant communication with each other, and between them and the members at large. We cannot hope to keep the interests of the individual member awake to our common objects without giving him the opportunity to be heard and understood by the members of the Order without the circumlocution imposed by official authorities. * * * Our civilizing aspirations must be cultivated; impulses of a higher nature must be brought to the home of every individual member; he must be kept in constant communication with the brotherhood at large, whether he attends lodge meetings or not; the fire of enthusiasm of love and humanity must be kept alive, and this can only be done through a press organ, to be established by the coming General Convention, with the aid and support of the whole brotherhood.''

I do not deem it necessary to add anything to what was said twenty-six years ago as to the necessity for such an organ. Your Executive Committee for a short time published the "B'nai B'rith Bulletin." The "Bulletin" was the pioneer which prepared the way for the B'nai B'rith News, now approaching its second anniversary. Whether or not it comes up to the standard of what Bro. Bien thought of an official organ 26 years ago, I cannot tell, but I do know that he expressed to me great satisfaction both with the character of the publication and the results he professed to believe were being achieved by it.

At present a number of Lodges subscribe for the paper and pay 20 cents a year for each member. That sum, however, is not sufficient to cover the cost of its publication. Some lodges have refused to subscribe for the paper. The rule seems to be that

those lodges which need it most, decline to subscribe for it, to save the expense.

I recommend to this Convention that the action of the Executive Committee in establishing an official organ for the Order be approved, and that provision be made for the regular forwarding of copies of it to every member of the Order in America, and to the Lodges in other countries as the Executive Committee may deem proper, and that the entire expense be borne by the Executive Committee.

HISTORY OF THE ORDER.

The President of the Order in 1874 urged as of great importance:

"That the Convention appoint a commission whose duty it shall be to write and publish an authentic history of our Order, under such conditions and regulations as in its wisdom it may deem proper—a history, not only of the numerical growth and wealth of the Order, but also of the development and realization of its great fundamental principles, which would establish forever its true tendencies and its ultimate object."

Subsequently Bro. Bien himself undertook the work of writing the history, performing it in his usual, able and interesting manner, but unfortunately he covered only the first fifteen years of its existence. The history begun by him should be continued. Your Executive Committee has been fortunate in securing the promise of one of its members, Dr. Calisch, to complete this work provided the members in the different districts would aid in furnishing data which do not appear in the records of the various conventions. I recommend that the secretaries of the various districts be requested to furnish Dr. Calisch with such data appearing upon their records as he may require. This can readily be done by those secretaries whose predecessors have preserved the records of the proceedings. Further assistance would also be given if such members of the Order as may be aware of interesting personal reminiscences of leading members of their District, dead or alive, would kindly write of them to Dr. Calisch.

EUROPEAN LODGES.

In February, 1909, I visited Europe, returning to this country in August.

I desire here to express my gratitude to the General Committee of District No. 1 for the courtesies extended to me on my departure for Europe, and to all the brethren from the American Districts to whom I am indebted for their expressions of good wishes on that occasion. Whether it was because of their good wishes, or of the great steady steamer and pleasant weather, or possibly, of all combined, in spite of the fact that I am not a good sailor, I enjoyed the ocean trip both going and coming very much.

Were I to describe my impressions of the character of our membership in the European Districts, I could do so only in terms of highest praise. The reception accorded me as President of the Order, attested their profound respect for and sincere faith in the ideals of an institution of which they are proud to be members.

A hospitable reception will naturally prejudice one in favor of his host. I have tried not to allow myself to be influenced by the hospitality bestowed upon me, and have endeavored to judge of the work and of the members in an unbiased manner.

Membership in the Order there is not held cheaply. New members are not sought by the Lodges, but membership in the Order is eagerly sought and highly prized, and many applications are rejected. The lodges as a rule charge large initiation fees and high dues. In many places whatever charitable work is done, is done by the Lodges. It is not deemed necessary to cite here what institutions are there maintained, for that information has been published heretofore in pamphlet form. Without desiring to reflect upon any of the American Districts, I cannot help but feel that the older Districts can learn much from the younger ones.

The admirable characteristic of members in Germany and Austria is their cheerful willingness to give any amount of per-

sonal service to the Order and humanity. The duties of membership are not attended to in a slipshod manner, but all their work, be it maintenance of Labor Bureaus, Toynbee Halls, Orphan Asylums, or whatever else, is attended to with as much enthusiasm and willingness as if their individual fortunes were dependent upon their success.

When I arrived in Hamburg, Committees from seventeen different cities were sent by their respective lodges to greet me. In Berlin the President of nearly every lodge in Germany came to attend the banquet, and to extend invitations to me to visit their respective cities. No sacrifice of time or labor seemed too much for them. Delegates from lodges from great distances were sent to every city I visited.

During my visit, a Lodge was instituted at Zurich, Switzerland, by the President of District No. 8, and nearly all the lodges of Germany sent delegates to be present at the institution of the new lodge. In some instances, two or three lodges joined together in sending a delegate. Of the 72 lodges in Germany, nearly all were represented at that meeting for no other purpose than to show their interest in the work of the Order. When the roll call of the German Lodges was called for greetings from the respective lodges, the delegates responded briefly. In the lodges of Districts 8 and 10, when a candidate is to be initiated, the members appear in the lodge room in full dress. The greatest care is taken by the committee investigating candidates, that no unworthy man be admitted to membership. The word "brother" means something to the members there. It is not an idle word. The word embraces not only the brothers, but the brothers' families.

This brings to my mind a scene I witnessed in Vienna which made a deep impression upon me. I visited what is known there as a "Trauerloge." A member of "Wien Loge" had died. A few days afterwards memorial services were held in the lodge room. The lodge room was heavily draped in mourning, a life sized picture of the deceased hung over the President's chair. The members assembled in full dress, with black ties and gloves. The

lodge was called to order and the monitor was sent out to escort the family of the deceased into the lodge room, the organ meanwhile playing solemn music, all the members standing. The widow and children were brought in front of the President's chair and seated in chairs provided for them. The members then took their respective seats. The President called upon one of the members present to deliver the Memorial Address. A more able, eloquent and sincere address I have never listened to. It lasted about twenty minutes. Then the President called upon one of the distinguished lawyers of Vienna, a past-president of the lodge, to step forward. The President then informed him that under the rules of the lodge, he was appointed guardian of the deceased brother's family, and asked him in the presence of the family and the brethren assembled, whether he would promise to accept the position and to watch and guard over the welfare of the family. This the brother readily agreed to do, and the President then told the widow that whenever she needed any advice, or aid, she should call on the guardian appointed by the lodge, or send for him, and that through him, her wishes would be communicated to the lodge. Thereupon without further ceremony, the lodge adjourned, the members standing while the family retired, after which the members also retired.

On inquiry, I found that the deceased brother was a very wealthy man; that he left minor children, and that although no financial aid would in all likelihood be needed by the family of the deceased, it became the duty of the Lodge Guardian to see that the family was protected and guided until the youngest child became of age, and to report to the lodge at least once a year how every member of that family was getting along.

Our Order since its infancy has gone through many changes. I believe we have now reached the time when certain other changes should be made.

The Order in its inception, following the vogue of the secret organizations then existing, created high sounding Hebrew titles for its officers; used regalias; conferred degrees; paid sick benefits; and subsequently it undertook to insure the lives of its mem-

bers. Gradually, changes were inaugurated. The high sounding titles were abolished, regalias and degrees are now unknown, the last to fall by the wayside being the insurance feature. Gradually, out of an organization which to some extent was created for self-protection, grew the great altruistic society, stretching out its helping hand from the shores of the Pacific ocean to the land in which our patriarchal ancestors dwelt, and back again, to assist with all its great strength in the development and elevation of the mental and moral character of the people of our faith.

But the question presents itself, can an organization which is held together only by the common desire of its members, to give assistance to others be expected long to endure? Does not the cement of organization require in the mixture some other ingredient to make it lasting? Men are not yet perfect, and working always for others and never for one's self, is likely to become irksome.

I recommend to the consideration of this Convention, the advisability of attempting legislation that would create some benefit to the member or his family to be derived from membership in the Order. I am not in favor of legislation that would confer upon members any pecuniary advantages, but I should like to see the By-Law of the Vienna Lodge as to the appointment of lodge guardian adopted and followed by every lodge in the Order. In our labors for the cause of humanity, we should not overlook our own families. A man joining our ranks should not look for any benefit to himself, but he should have the right to feel that, when by an inscrutable Providence he is called hence, the widow and children he leaves behind shall, by virtue of his membership in a true brotherhood, receive a brother's watchful care.

In order properly to enable us to carry out such Legislation if enacted, the character of our membership must be carefully guarded. We are not a political body, and the question of the number of votes is of no importance.

Class initiations need not be discouraged, but the character

of each candidate should be carefully studied before he is admitted to membership. When a committee is appointed to investigate a candidate such committee ought not to be permitted to report to the lodge until it has met, exchanged views and can conscientiously recommend election. One bad man in a lodge may be enough to destroy the usefulness of the whole lodge. We should not look to quantity but to quality. The election of a member into our Order should be generally recognized as the equivalent of a certificate of good character.

In this Democratic land of ours the wealth or social station of a candidate should have little bearing. The sole test to membership should be character. Ten thousand members, more or less, each of whom can be depended on to do his duty, and recognized by his neighbors as a good and truthful citizen, will be much stronger and represent more than would 100,000 indifferent members admitted for no other reason than simply because they applied for membership. We have a good membership but let us build upwards and not downwards. Let our organization be democratic in its relations and activities, but aristocratic in character.

CONDITIONS IN GALICIA.

The condition of the Jews in Galicia is deplorable. The poverty among the very large Jewish population of that land is indescribable. According to the last census there are 811,371 Jews in Galicia of which one-third consists of beggars and the great majority of the other two-thirds of so-called "Luft Menschen." The country itself is poor, has but few industries, and in the few industries that do exist, the Jews have very little chance for work, owing to the anti-semitic agitation carried on by the Polish Trade Societies to which Jews are not admitted.

Owing to their extreme poverty, consumption rages among the Jews of Galicia. In Silesia, German-Poland, the annual death rate is 13.01 in every 1,000 Jews; in Galicia, Austria-Poland, it is 20.09. Consequently there are annually 5,744 more deaths

among the Jews in Galicia than there would be among an equal number in Silesia. Lack of work and means causes lack of food and unhealthy habitations. Result: the unusual large death rate. Constant misery caused by poverty weakens not only the body but the morals of a people. Hence it is not strange that among the Galician Jews, the recruiting agent, finds many not too reluctant additions to the army of the "White Slaves."

The 10th District of the Order furnishes money to establish industries in order to give employment to the unfortunate; but it is considered that the girl who can earn by a hard day's work, one krone, 20 cents in our money, is earning good wages. The German Hilfsverein, the Austrian Hilfsverein and the German Grand Lodge are also aiding to some extent the unfortunate among our people in that land.

We are fighting the "White Slave" traffic. Let us help to close up the markets which furnish the victims.

From the fund which we contributed towards the relief of the sufferers by the Russian massacre, there is a certain amount still in the hands of Mr. Schiff as treasurer, which, under the laws he cannot very well dispose of. With the consent of the Executive Committee, I asked Mr. Schiff to return to us our proportionate share of the amount still on hand (about $6,000) in order that we might send it to District No. 10 to augment the fund being raised for the establishment of industries to furnish work to the Galician Jews. I stated to Mr. Schiff also that the Order would indemnify him against any loss because of such payment. Mr. Schiff has agreed to this. I therefore recommend that this Convention pass suitable resolution to indemnify Mr. Schiff against any loss which may accrue to him through payment to us of our share of the funds in his hands, and that the money when paid over, be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Austria, to be used as aforesaid.

NEW LODGE IN LONDON.

While in Europe, I requested Bro. Siegmund Bergel, of Montefiore Lodge, Berlin, to visit London for the purpose of laying

a foundation for a lodge in that city. He accepted the commission and faithfully carried out the trust imposed upon him. He induced Mr. Claude G. Montefiore, who is a member of Montefiore Lodge, Berlin, to call a meeting of leading London Jews, at his residence, on June 17th last. In company with Bro. Bergel I attended it. We addressed those present and tried to interest them in the formation of a lodge. Nearly all were interested as officers in different Jewish organizations, performing some of the work which the Order has taken upon itself to do, and consequently the objection was made that the establishment of a lodge would duplicate work and bring on confusion. Nine of those present, however, declared their willingness to join the Order and form a lodge in that city. I initiated them and had them elected honorary members of my home lodge. It was my expectation that the London Lodge should, as to the character of the members, be one of the banner lodges of the Order. The selection of members for that lodge by the committee of nine new members was slow work. It was understood that each one selected for membership should be a man who stood for something in the community. I take great pleasure in informing you that on the 19th of March of this year, the London Lodge No. 663 was instituted in London by Bro. Siegmund Bergel, acting on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Order.

I consider the formation of that lodge the most important event of this administration so far as strengthening the Order is concerned, and believe that the work of the new lodge in due time will redound to the glory of Israel.

Some years ago a number of immigrants in England formed a benevolent organization securing benefits to its members, and without hesitation adopted the name of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith. For that reason our order in England may have to be known as the United Order of B'nai B'rith.

SECRECY.

The question of abolishing the so-called secrecy feature of the Order is not a new one. For more than 25 years it has been pre-

sented to each convention for consideration, and at each succeeding convention those in favor of its abolishment have gained in numbers. Whatever my personal inclination may be, any recommendations I make to the convention are based on what I believe to be for the welfare of the Order.

Have we any secrecy? This convention is open to the public. Most of the District Grand Lodges, if not all, meet with open doors. What secrets have we? A pass word and a sign of recognition for the purpose of identification. All of our work may be known to mankind. The mere fact that we can prove ourselves to be members of this organization and thereby show that we have been found by our fellow-members as men of good character has a tendency to cement the membership in brotherly love and respect and to create obligations towards each other in contradistinction to the mere contributors to charitable organizations, who when they pay their contributions consider they have done their duty and have no special interest in their fellow-contributors.

The lodge system is the best so far adopted to teach members brotherly love. That seems to be the view of the members in America and is unquestionably the view of the European members. During my visit to Europe, wherever I went I was informed that so far as the Order in Europe was concerned the abolishment of the lodge system would be the death-knell of the Order there. In all my travels I did not find a single member who favored the abolishment of the present system and I discussed the question with the members of the General Committee of Districts Nos. 8 and 10, also with the President of District No. 9.

The attack on secrecy is virtually an attack upon fraternal organizations with ritualistic form of work, recognized by the laws of the land as beneficial to the community. Special laws have been passed by nearly all the states for their benefit. In view of the fact that six of the American Districts are bound to carry out the endowment laws applicable to their old members care must be taken not to jeopardize the rights of such members. An

abolishment of the lodge system under ritualistic form of government would in some of the states make it almost impossible, if not illegal to carry out obligations to the members under old endowment laws. To illustrate: the State of Illinois has the following law:

"A fraternal beneficiary society is hereby declared to be a corporation, society or association formed, organized or carried on for the sole benefit of its members and their beneficiaries and not for profit. Each society shall have the lodge system with ritualistic form of work and representative form of government and may make provisions for the payment of benefits in case of disability or death or of either resulting from either disease, accident or old age of its members."

The act provides that such society shall be exempt from the law regulating life insurance campanies. A society which has not a lodge system with ritualistic form of government and provides for benefits in case of disability or death is deemed a life insurance company and regulated by the strict laws applicable to those companies, laws which the District could not possibly comply with. On account of the endowment in the American Districts it is therefore absolutely essential in most of the States to maintain the lodge system under ritualistic form of government.

To attempt to make any change in that regard at the present time would in my opinion disrupt the Order; and from the standpoint of what I believe is best for the entire Order, I urge that no change in this respect be made and that no time be wasted in attempting to make such change.

In this connection and at the request of some of the leading European members, I desire to make another recommendation, which may seem to be a step backward. Our password has been the same for years. A suspended or expelled member often finds no difficulty when away from home in visiting a lodge when in executive session. In this country it has happened that men who years before ceased to be members of the Order, while traveling

as field agents on behalf of some other organization, have visited our lodges and carried on propaganda work in our lodge rooms.

I recommend that the President of the Executive Committee be authorized to communicate to the lodges an annual password, and that no member be permitted to visit sister lodges unless in possession of such annual password, or a traveling card as evidence that he is still a member in good standing. We have members who never think of visiting their own lodge, but when on a pleasure trip to Europe are very anxious to visit the lodges there and receive the honors there shown them and enjoy the privileges extended to them.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Many unusual and important questions have arisen in the last five years which required the attention of the Executive Committee. The order was fortunate in the selection of the members of that body. They are able men whose advice and assistance were invaluable aids to me in the performance of my duties. In the selection of the next Executive Committee each District should be careful in the choice of its representative so that my successor may be as ably assisted as was I.

In this connection I desire to call attention to the fact that the authority of the Executive Committee to call for voluntary contributions in times of great disaster has never been questioned. Contributions were called for by my predecessors for the relief of the Yellow Fever sufferers of New Orleans; for the Yellow Fever sufferers of Memphis; for the sufferers of the Chicago Fire; the Galveston Flood, and upon other occasions.

The collection of contributions cannot be enforced under our law. They must be voluntary; but when once collected at the request of the Executive Committee, they ought to be under the absolute control of the Executive Committee.

When we issued a call to aid the Russian sufferers, each District was requested to forward the money so collected to the office of the Secretary of the Executive Committee so that we could

at least keep a record of our contributions. Excepting one, each District promptly complied with this request.

Subsequently came the San Francisco earthquake. We again issued a call for aid with instructions to forward the money to the Central Office. With the same exception, each of the Districts again promptly complied. In response to the first call the excepted District made a collection, but turned it over directly to Mr. Schiff. In the second instance, it insisted upon sending the money to District No. 4 ignoring the Executive Committee; and it was not until District No. 4 refused to accept the collection, unless it should come through the Executive Office, that the money was forwarded as requested.

I recommend that some law be enacted defining the rights and duties of the Executive Committee in such emergencies.

COURT OF APPEALS.

Two appeals were taken to our Court, one from District No. 8. That appeal was dismissed because it did not comply with the rules of the Court.

I wonder how many of the distinguished delegates present know what the rules of that Court are, or where they are to be found.

The Court of Appeals adopted rules about twenty-five years ago and published them in booklet form. I was then a member of that Court, but confess now that I do not possess the booklet containing the rules, and that I have at best only a hazy recollection of what they are.

I recommend that the Members of the Court attending this session should, before leaving Washington, make such changes as may be desirable, if any, in the rules, and give them to the Secretary of the Eexcutive Committee to be printed as an appendix to the Constitution of the Order, so that each member may know what the rules of the Court are; and I further recommend that the rules of the Court be so amended as to permit appellants residing in European Districts to perfect their ap-

peals in the German language. The rules of the Court now in force, providing that appeals must be in the English language, do not conduce to strengthen the ties existing between the American and European Districts; and as the distinguished members of our Court are scholars and linguists, it seems to me it would be a pleasure and a recreation to them occasionally to pass upon an appeal presented in the German language.

OBITUARY.

"There is no flock however watched and tended,
But one dead lamb is there.
There is no fireside howsoe'r defended,
But has one vacant chair."

Unfortunately for our Order, since last we met, there are many chairs made vacant. At the last Convention Bro. M. Thalmessinger was with us. For 55 years he was active as a member of the Order. Before the Convention adjourned, expecting that he would not be with us at this Convention, he arose and addressed us in part as follows:

"Yes, I do love the Order, with all its virtues and merits and with all its faults and shortcomings. I do love its members and the dear associations and friendships I have formed therein for over half a century. It comforts me to think of the warm hands that have so often clasped my own; the hundreds of warm hearts that have admitted me into their love and confidence. But that blissful feeling passes away like vapors before the rising sun when I think of the tribute I, like all human beings, will have to pay nature, and which reminds me of the stern fact that when you, my brethren, again meet five years hence, to perpetuate our noble cause and that of all Israel, I am not likely to enjoy your fraternal companionship, but that the next Convention will not find me on earth or physically able to be present. But, my dear brethren, although I will be absent in body, I will be with you in spirit. And from that unknown region the "Hereafter" in which I devoutly believe, from beyond

the stars of Heaven, I will look down upon you and I will be with you in spirit, and my spirit will bless you one and all, and it will rejoice in and sympathize with your work, a work dedicated, as it ever was, to the glory of God and to the betterment of mankind.

"When forced to part from those we love,
Though hope to meet to-morrow,
We yet a kind of anguish prove
And feel a touch of sorrow.
But, oh! what words can paint our fears
When from those friends we sever,
Perhaps to part for months—for years—
Perhaps to part forever."

"My friends! My beloved brethren! My comrades in peace and war! Farewell! farewell! farewell!"

Alas, the prophecy of Bro. Thalmessinger proved true. He is no more with us.

Bro. M. Ellinger, for a long time Secretary of the Executive Committee and who was largely instrumental in establishing the European Lodges, is also gone to that Home from which no traveler returns.

Bro. Julius Bien, the Nestor of the Order for more than 60 years, died on December 21st last, and thus within a short period of time, the three great pillars of strength of our Mother District have left us. We rejoice that Bro. Bien lived so long,—13 years beyond the allotted span. For about thirty years it was my good fortune to be personally acquainted with him. I never met a man who was more modest and retiring and at the same time possessed greater qualifications as a leader of men.

Julius Bien was a man of great force of character, of great will power, an untiring student, possessed of more than ordinary common sense, gentle and kind towards his fellow men, and in all his actions guided by calm judgment. No one can

truthfully speak ill of Julius Bien. His career is ended, his life's history like an open book is now before us. Those who will take the time to read his messages to the Order, written during the thirty-two years that he was at its head, will learn much of the value of his life to the Order as well as to the entire human race, and will the more readily appreciate the great loss sustained by his death.

During the past five years we have lost by death in the American Districts 2227. It is impossible to name them all, much as we would like to pay tribute to their memory. I therefore limit this memorial to the names of those who at some time during their life were leaders in their respective Districts.

District No. 1.

Samuel D. Sewards, Solomon B. Wolfe, Jacob B. Ullman, Marcus Berliner, Isaac Rosnosky, Henry W. Cane, Sigmund Hamburger, Nathan Kempner.

District No. 2.

M. Buchman, Max J. Mack, Morton S. Cohen, Nathan M. Uri.

District No. 3.

Max Thalheimer, Jacob Holzner, M. C. Hirsch, S. W. Goodman, Berthold J. Potsdamer, Charles Marks.

District No. 4.

H. Marks, Abraham Ansbacher, Julius Platshek, Solomon Zekind, H. P. Bush, B. A. D'Ancona, Rev. Jacob Voorsanger, Harry E. Heineman.

District No. 5.

Lionel C. Levy, E. A. Waxelbaum, David Kaufman, Herman Witlock, Moses Hutzler.

District No. 6.

Edward Rubovits, Adolph Moses, Adolph Loeb, E. C. Hamburger, Harry Swimmer, Dr. Bernard Felsenthal, Dr. Aaron Norden, David Adler, David Fish.

District No. 7.
Isidore Newman, Julius Weiss, Simon Gumbel, Abraham Weil.

District No. 8.
Gustav Tuch.

District No. 10.
Dr. Leon Horowitz, Dr. Emil Byk.

They are gone, these good men, the way of all men. And as they went so must we all go when our allotted course is run. May we take thought of their lives, and so live our own, that meeting, as we fondly hope to meet in the life beyond those dear friends who have gone before, we may greet them with the consciousness that each of us in our own way and to the best of our several abilities, earnestly and faithfully endeavored to follow their illustrious example.

COMMON GROUND.

It will not do either to ignore or to shut our eyes to what is going on. A tremendous dynamic force has been at work in the camp of Israel. Passions have been aroused. Schisms have been created, and where peace and harmony are so essential strife and discord reign. We have the Zionist and the anti-Zionist; the Orthodox and Reformed, with their respective chasms constantly widening; their antipathies steadily growing. In my judgment it is the province of the Order to continue in the path which it has pursued from its inception. It must not look to the right nor to the left. It must not favor or discountenance movements within our own ranks, on which Jewish opinion are pronounced and varied, but on the contrary, the Order must continue to be the rallying ground for all Jews regardless of political or religious opinions. We have no more to do with the national or the political Jew than we have to do with the radical, reform, conservative or orthodox Jew. We must continue in our endeavor to unite Israelites; we must continue to show a solid front to our foes; we must continue to promot-

fraternity, peace and harmony among all the children of Israel.

There never was a time when peace among us was more essential than it is at present. The changed condition of our population, the constantly changing economic conditions of the country, the great strides and advances which are made by those of our co-religionists who have but recently come to our shores, all demand at our hands the most careful consideration, the closest study, and the greatest effort in behalf of peace, harmony and conciliation. There never was a time when our Order could and should become a more potent influence for good, or be availed of to better advantage by all the elements of our Jewish population than the present time.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

The members of the Executive Committee report fully as to the activities and conditions of their respective Districts. I will therefore only briefly review each District.

District No. 1.

Number 1, the mother District of the Order, shows a loss in its membership for the past five years. The average age of the membership in that District is much higher than in any other, consequently the death rate is higher. During the past five years No. 1 lost 747 members by death, being more than double the number of any other District. This partly accounts for the loss of membership. During the past two years conditions have improved and the District has made a net gain.

Many of the lodges are recruiting their ranks with young men, who, not attracted by material benefits, are no doubt prepared to work for the altruistic and ideal aims of the Order. The District is giving proof that it is embarking upon another active period. It is to be hoped that it will succeed in regaining its former position of leader in numbers and activity. Its present membership is 3,485.

District No. 2.

This is now the banner District of the Order in America. During the past five years it shows a net gain of 1,423 in membership. Propaganda for the Order has been conducted by its able officers in a businesslike and systematic manner. The lodges in the larger cities have by consolidation increased their efficiency for good and have become important factors in the solution of Jewish questions. The largest two lodges are located in this District, wielding beneficial influence in local affairs. The District has gained materially in importance not only through its increased numerical strength, the personnel of which is excellent, but also through its activities in the fields of benevolence and education. Its total membership is 5,305.

District No. 3.

Though this is the smallest District in point of area, it is gratifying to note a net increase of 643 in its membership. This is chiefly due to the able work of its leaders and the hearty cooperation of its members. Joshua Lodge No. 23 of Philadelphia takes the lead. Many new lodges were instituted in the smaller communities. In many localities the lodge is the only organization doing communal work. During its last convention held in January of this year, the District Grand Lodge resolved to establish an orphanage within its territory, thus giving material proof of its virility and commendable activity in the furtherance of the Order's aims and objects. Its total membership is 2,700.

District No. 4.

The terrible disaster of 1906, in the city of San Francisco, the stronghold of the District, served temporarily at least to check its growth and development. It is to the credit of the fraternity of the Pacific slope, that in point of membership as well as in activity, the District has not only fully regained all it lost through the earthquake and fire, but has made material progress. The District shows a net gain of 387 in membership. Regard-

ing its activities it is noteworthy that under the auspices and upon the initiative of Los Angeles Lodge an Orphan Asylum in Southern California has been established. The lodges of San Francisco are now erecting a B'nai B'rith building, to be completed about June 1st, which will also serve as headquarters for the members of the Order, offering them all the usual facilities of a well regulated club. It is expected that this undertaking will materially aid the lodges and help to sustain the present lively interest. Los Angeles and Portland contemplate the erection of B'nai B'rith buildings. Total membership of the District is 2,639.

District No. 5.

In reviewing the conditions of District No. 5 I call attention to the anomalous situation as shown by the fact that there is no lodge in Baltimore, the seat of the Grand Lodge of that District. Baltimore contains a large Jewish population which is reputed to be progressive and active in Jewish affairs. The establishment of a lodge in that community would be of mutual advantage to the community and the Order. No. 5 was the only District which made no provision for a reserve endowment fund. What should have been foreseen years before would happen, did happen. The time came when it was realized that the obligations, undertaken with reference to the payment of death benefits, could not be carried out. Hence, the endowment feature in that District had to be abandoned. The loss of membership followed rapidly.

Thirty lodges lost their charters either by suspension or voluntary surrender. Five years ago the District had 901 members. It now has only 841. Under ordinary circumstances this would be a poor showing, but I find much encouragement in the fact that in spite of the unfortunate endowment trouble so many have remained loyal. It can at least be said for the present membership that no selfish motives prompt them to remain in the Order. Some of the leading Jews in the country live in this District and are members of the Order. The present President

of the District seems to take considerable interest in its affairs and I believe that long before the next convention meets all the losses in that District will be made good. Sixteen new lodges were instituted within the last five years. It is however not enough to institute a lodge. The Grand Lodge officers should use their best efforts to encourage and stimulate the new lodges in the work of the Order. Effort should be made to revive some of the lodges now extinct, especially in Baltimore.

District No. 6.

The net gain of membership in this District during the past five years is 1,294, the percentage of increase being the largest of all the American Districts. A number of new lodges were instituted and noteworthy is the fact that the banner of the Order has been planted in new territories, namely: at Fargo, N. D., and Winnipeg, Canada. Winnipeg Lodge is the only lodge in Canada. This lodge was instituted with 35 members. It now has 136 members. The District has since the last convention established a B'nai B'rith Free Employment Bureau in Chicago, maintained by the Chicago lodges and the Grand Lodge and now also subventioned by the Associated Jewish Charities. In some of the smaller communities where no congregations exist, the lodges maintain Sabbath schools. In some cities night schools for immigrants are maintained.

New lodges and new men with new ideas is the result of the work carried on in this District. The total membership is 3,816.

District No. 7.

This District, an empire in itself, has made marked progress in its growth and development. In this, the youngest of our American Districts, signs of active, vigorous life are everywhere displayed. It is true that the majority of the lodges have a small membership. This is due to lack of available material. The lodges are scattered over an extensive territory, widely separated from each other. They serve as monitors, safeguarding the interests of Judaism in their respective localities. The members

in this District tax themselves more per capita for the maintenance of charitable institutions than those of any other American District. With the constant increase in the number of lodges, new centers of activity and new co-operators in our work and cause are being secured. Its membership is 4,061.

District No. 8, Germany.

This District is universally recognized and acknowledged as the crowning jewel in the diadem of the Order's efforts. It has 7,935 members. This membership consists of the most representative of our faith in that country; they manifest unusual interest in the development of our Order; they aim to live up to and carry out the preamble to our constitution. In matters of philanthropy District No. 8 has no superior and few if any equals. It maintains recreation colonies and gives special care to the children of the poor. For the relief of the unemployed, Free Labor Bureaus have been established, training schools for nurses, homes for girls, Toynbee halls, orphan homes, asylums for feeble-minded children, schools for backward pupils and eleemosynary institutions of all sorts and character have been founded and are being maintained by the lodges and the District at large. District No. 8 is truly responsive to the needs of the times and is a worthy exponent of the principles of the Order.

District No. 9, Roumania.

The condition of this District did not improve during the past five years; if any change is apparent it is for the worse. Only eight of the former thirteen lodges are in existence. A fact which may have had a bearing upon the loss in the number of lodges in this District is that the lodges steadfastly abstained there, as they do everywhere from meddling in political affairs. This was interpreted by the younger element as a refusal on the part of the Order to grapple with questions affecting the existence of the Jewish people and caused dissatisfaction. The lodges are active in extending relief to the needy, and they maintain various institutions, such as vacation colonies for convalescent

poor children, society for furnishing clothing to the poor, elementary schools for boys and girls, stations for distributing free meals. They also maintain a high school for girls. The Grand Lodge aided by some of the lodges has carried on a systematic fight against the so-called "More Judaico," which has required heavy sacrifices of money and personal service. The District is fortunate in having such a man as Dr. Adolphe Stern as President.

District No. 10, Austria.

Fifteen years ago District Grand Lodge No. 10 was inaugurated. In this comparatively brief period of time the District has made marvelous progress. Representatives of the best elements in Jewry have responded to the call of the Order and enrolled themselves as its members. The lodges are the pioneers and pathfinders in all charitable and beneficent undertakings. It is true that the membership is small, but what it lacks in numbers it makes up in the quality and standing of its members. As visible monuments to their benevolent activity I may mention homes for orphans, labor bureaus in many cities, Toynbee halls and libraries, vacation colonies and homes for children, homes for nurses, and principally the aid furnished to the Galician Jews. Without egotism and with unstinted liberality the brothers of District No. 10 are laboring for the furtherance of all noble aims and worthy philanthropies.

The Orient.

Jeruschelajim Lodge of Jerusalem, Palestine, has continued in its beneficent work of ameliorating the conditions of the poor. Through its initiative a colony was established at Mozza and a kindergarten in its home city. The principal work of the lodge consists in the maintenance of the Central Library at Jerusalem, which is continually being enlarged.

Schaar Zion Lodge of Jaffa maintains the "Schaar Zion Hospital," the only Jewish hospital in that city, the chief port of Palestine, where poor sick co-religionists seek relief.

Galil Lodge of Saffed, Palestine, has during the past five years concentrated its activities upon the following: It has subventioned professional men, enabling them to pursue their calling; maintains a library and reading room; conducts a kindergarten, at which an average attendance of 120 children is reported; maintains school for the teaching of the Arabic and Turkish languages; takes care of the sick and has a special committee to look after this feature of its activity. The lodge owns its own building, in which the library and public lecture hall is situated.

Arze-Levonon Lodge, of Beyruth, Syria, is actively engaged in the maintenance of a night school and kindergarten.

Mizpah Lodge of Philippopoli, Bulgaria, is the first lodge instituted in that country. It works diligently and has attained notable results. Due to it, "Ezra" Lodge of Varna, Bulgaria, was instituted in 1907, and it is now organizing a sister lodge at Rustchuk.

Ezra Lodge of Varna, Bulgaria, is the youngest lodge in the Orient, having been instituted April 23, 1907. This lodge has done good work in harmonizing the various and conflicting elements of its local Jewry. In the field of charity the lodge also manifests activity; it organized a society to aid the sick and a women's society for furnishing clothing to the poor. Though the lodge numbers only 33 members, it disbursed for benevolent purposes more than 3,600 francs since its institution.

We have several other lodges in the Orient, but hear from them very seldom. Our position there needs strengthening, and as soon as we have there a sufficient number of lodges and membership a new District should be created. To facilitate matters in that direction I recommend that the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint from year to year and until such time as a new District is formed there, some member of the Order outside of the United States as an additional member of the Executive Committee to represent the lodges of the Orient.

On Jan. 1, 1905, we had a total membership in the American Districts of 18,728. In Districts 8, 9, 10, 8,091. On Dec. 31,

1909, the membership in the American Districts was 22,847; in Districts 8, 9 and 10, 9,926. And in the Orient from reports received 350, making a total membership of the Order 33,123, a net increase during the last five years of 6,004 members, a gain of 22.15 per cent, being a larger increase than at any equal period of time in the history of the Order.

At the last session of the convention there was in the hands of the treasurer of the Executive Committee the sum of $19,914.86, which included the sum of $4,143.00 paid by Districts Nos. 2 and 6 as their installments for the first six months of the year 1905. From the amount on hand the expenses of the convention had to be paid. On Dec. 31, 1909, there was in the hands of the treasurer of the Executive Committee the sum of $24,684.39.

Since the meeting of the last convention the Districts paid to widows and orphans $1,243,070.48, and to charity $1,145,-118.12.

HOT SPRINGS SANITARIUM.

At the last convention the following resolution was presented:

"That the Constitution Grand Lodge give the movement (of establishing a Sanitarium at Hot Springs which is to be a national institution) its hearty endorsement, that it offer its machinery in support of whatever efforts may be made to solicit money and to obtain from Congress a grant of land on East Mountain at Hot Springs."

The above resolution was referred by the Convention to the Committee on Charitable Objects, and the following report was presented by the Committee:

"Your Committee recommends that this matter be referred to the Executive Committee of the Constitution Grand Lodge, and that the sense of this Convention be that this Constitution Grand Lodge give its moral support to this movement."

The attention of the Executive Committee was called to the fact that the record of the proceedings of the Convention failed to show any action by the Convention with reference thereto.

The subject matter, however, was taken up for consideration by the Executive Committee at its meeting held in Boston on May 31, 1908, upon presentation of a communication from District Grand Lodge No. 7, calling attention to the conditions at Hot Springs and to the work of the Hot Springs Relief Committee. The Executive Committee resolved to issue a circular letter to the lodges of the Order urging their substantial and moral support in behalf of the Hot Springs Relief Committee.

At the following meeting of the Executive Committee it was resolved that the President recommend that the Constitution Grand Lodge allow to the Hot Springs sanitarium such financial aid as it may deem proper. I therefore submit that question to your favorable consideration.

NATIONAL JEWISH HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DENVER, COLO.

It is a little more than a decade since the Denver Hospital first opened its doors for the relief of sufferers from the White Plague. At the beginning, the capacity of the Hospital was limited to thirty-five patients. Now, after a lapse of ten years, the hospital takes care of 132 patients, and there is a waiting list of poor patients, longing for admission. The hospital received during the period from May 1, 1905, to Dec. 31, 1909, the sum of $362,490.82 for the general fund, and disbursed during the period from the same fund, $344,765.83. Of those receipts the sum of $48,115.28 or 13-27/100 per cent was contributed by the Order. The hospital during the last period of 44 months shows an average annual surplus of $4,834.08.

The action of the Order has placed the Hospital for Consumptives on a solid foundation. It is now recognized by the American Jewry as an institution entitled to its support. Therefore the time is rapidly approaching when the money which we pay to that institution, or at least a part thereof, can and ought to be used to aid some other worthy institution. The

Executive Committee has made a personal investigation of the hospital, was very favorably impressed with the management as well as with the good results to the patients. I recommend that the Denver hospital be allowed for the next five years annually 40 cents for each member in the first seven Districts, but that the Executive Committee be authorized to reduce said amount from time to time if in their judgment it will be proper so to do.

SECRETARY.

In compliance with the law adopted at the last Constitution Grand Lodge Convention, abolishing the office of "Honorary Secretary" and creating instead the office of Secretary, Brother A. B. Seelenfreund, of Chicago, was appointed secretary by and with the concurrence of the Executive Committee. It is due to him to say that his services have been satisfactory.

LEO N. LEVI MEMORIAL VOLUME.

The writings of our lamented President, Leo. N. Levi, rich in wisdom and gems in English literature, were compiled, published and distributed among the members of the Order. This book is an ornament to the best library. Specially bound copies of the volume were presented to the members of the author's family. Twenty thousand copies were published, of which number about five hundred copies remain on hand.

CHANCELLOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

On December 2, 1907, Bro. Bien wrote me the following letter:

"My Dear Brother Kraus: Continued ill health and poor prospect of speedy improvement in regaining sufficient strength to enable me to do justice to my office, impel me to tender you my resignation as Chancellor of Foreign Affairs.

"It is with deep regret that I take this step, having been so intimately connected with our foreign jurisdictions since their

establishment, but my interest in their welfare will not cease, and I shall be happy to render them any service in my power. In a few days I will send you some documents which will throw light on the state of the Order in the various countries.

"Kindly give official information of my resignation to the foreign Grand Lodge and Lodges.

* * *

"It remains for me to express to you my sincere thanks for the uniform courtesy and consideration shown during your administration.

"With best wishes for your future success in the exalted office which you fill with so much zeal and ability,

"Fraternally yours,

"JULIUS BIEN."

I replied as follows:

"Dec. 4, 1907.

"MY DEAR BROTHER BIEN: I have carefully considered the contents of yours of Dec. 2d. I doubt whether I have the power to accept your resignation as Chancellor if I wanted to, and I am sure I don't want to. This office was created for you because the members of the Order desired to show the high esteem in which they held you. Should you insist upon resigning, then in my opinion, the office will remain vacant. That office was created as the one of the highest distinction and in recognition for long and faithful services, especially in foreign lands. We have no one competent to be your successor.

"Now will you please permit me a suggestion? Suppose you dictate a letter to each one of the European districts requesting them, owing to your ill health, to communicate with me instead of you until further notice. If my wife's health will permit it, I will go to Europe next summer and remain there for a year, and the correspondence between those districts and this office in the meantime will bring me in touch with them to a certain extent before my arrival.

"The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be called in the East, and I hope you will be strong enough to be able to attend it.

* * *

"With very best wishes for your good health, I am,

"Sincerely yours,

"ADOLF KRAUS."

To the above letter I received the following reply:

"NEW YORK, Dec. 9, 1907.

"Hon. Adolf Kraus, Pres. Executive Committee, Tribune Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

"MY DEAR BROTHER KRAUS: Only a few lines to-day, to thank you for your kind and affectionate letter, which has been a source of great encouragement to me, and I will act on your suggestion and inform our foreign jurisdictions to carry on their official correspondence with you direct until such time as I can take up the work again satisfactorily.

"It is an honor and a pleasure to serve with you, and nothing will give me greater gratification than to be able to hold out during your term of office.

"With affectionate regards, I remain,

"Sincerely yours,

"JULIUS BIEN."

I recommend that the office of Chancellor of Foreign Affairs be abolished for two reasons. 1st, because I believe that out of respect to the memory of Bro. Bien the office ought not to be filled by any other member, and, 2nd, because there ought to be no divided responsibility and all records of the Order should be kept in one office.

I also make the following recommendations:

(a) The Per Capita tax should be increased. This is necessary, to enable us to publish the official organ of the Order; to aid the Hot Springs sanitarium; and to have some funds on

hand to be used in case of great emergency. In this connection I recommend to Districts 8, 9 and 10, that they create a special fund by setting aside annually such sum as they may deem proper. Such fund to be held by them to enable them to promptly co-operate with us financially in cases of disaster.

(b) I recommend that the members of the Executive Committee of the European Districts meet at least once during each term of five years for the purpose of conferring as to measures to be taken for the best interest of the Order in Europe and that they report their conclusions to the Executive Commitee of the Order.

(c) The last Convention provided that the Order should maintain headquarters in the city of New York. During the past five years there has been paid by the Executive Committee the sum of $2,857.60 for maintaining an office and a clerk in that city. So far to my knowledge no good reason has been advanced why such an office should be maintained in the city of New York any more than in San Francisco. If District No. 1 or any other District should need any financial assistance from the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee be in a position to render such assistance it ought to be cheerfully and freely given, but if the Executive Committee is to be burdened with a fixed charge some good reason ought to be advanced for it. I therefore recommend that unless some good reason is given to this convention why such an office should be maintained in the city of New York, such office be abolished.

(d) I recommend that the Executive Committee be authorized and empowered to re-district some of the Districts so as to assign new states and territories to such Districts as can properly take care of them and also to apportion Canada to such Districts as they may deem proper, the Canadian Districts however to be subject to re-distriction whenever a new Grand Lodge is established in England and in that connection also to permit such lodges as are under the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee in lands over which the English Government has jurisdic-

tion to be assigned to the Grand Lodge of England whenever formed.

(e) The lodge in Winnipeg, Manitoba, instituted by District No. 6 was assigned by the Executive Committee to No. 6. The two lodges in Switzerland instituted by District No. 8 were assigned by the Executive Committee to District No. 8. I recommend that that action be approved and remain in force until new Districts are formed.

(f) In view of the fact that it must be assumed that the convention has absolute confidence in the members of its Executive Committee, I do not think that the provision of the law limiting to $100.00 the allowance for expenses of a member of the Executive Committee for attending a meeting is proper. It is safe to say that the average expense for each meeting is less than $100.00 per member, but to limit the expense of the member from District No. 4 to $100.00 is putting a burden upon him which is not fair. I therefore recommend that the limitation of $100.00 be repealed.

(g) I recommend that the Executive Committee be authorized to cause a gold medal appropriately inscribed to be presented by a vote of the Executive Committee, not more than once each year to that man or woman, regardless of creed, who contributes most during the year to the welfare of the Jewish cause.

ASSOCIATED PRESS.

The following correspondence needs no explanation.

Dec. 23, 1908.

Melville E. Stone, Esq., Manager Associated Press.

My Dear Mr. Stone: If A. B., an non-Jew, commits a crime the Associated Press dispatches furnish the public with the news without any reference as to whether he is a Methodist, a Catholic, or whatever Christian denomination he may belong to. If however, A. B. happens to be a Jew, then almost invariably the

news item informs us that A. B., a Jew, etc., committed an offense. Is there any good reason for making such a distinction? Has not the Jew been persecuted for conscience sake enough for these many centuries, and is such a reference in accord with the American spirit? The press is one of the educators of the American people. Should it therefore not take care to avoid anything which unnecessarily and unjustly creates a prejudice with some, and increases it with others against a religious sect whose members, as a rule, are law-abiding and patriotic citizens and furnish no greater, if as great, a quota of criminals and paupers as those of other religious beliefs.

I am convinced that the overwhelming majority of the American press is free of religious prejudice and that it is not the intention of its managers to create unnecessarily in this country a hatred against any law-abiding portion of the people. I therefore take the liberty to inquire whether the Associated Press could not without any impairment of its news service adopt a rule prohibiting its agents from publishing the religious beliefs of evil doers when such belief has nothing to do with the offense committed. I am confident that it is not the policy of your association to give unnecessary offense to any religious sect and that if it is in your power to remedy the evil which is herein complained of, it will be done. I am,

Very truly yours,

ADOLF KRAUS.

Dec. 26, 1908.

Adolf Kraus, Esq., Chicago, Ill.

MY DEAR MR. KRAUS: I have yours of Dec. 23rd. I think your suggestion is a perfectly proper one and I see no reason on earth why we should say A. B. was a Jew any more than we should say he was a Methodist. Based on your suggestions I will issue precisely the instructions you indicate.

Sincerely yours,

MELVILLE E. STONE,
General Manager.

THE EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE.

The Educational League is an organization which has as its object the higher education of orphans, with offices in Cleveland, Ohio, and a board of governors in different cities of the Union. That the League is entitled to encouragement cannot be questioned. The officers of the League request the co-operation of the Order. They have prepared a plan for that purpose, which I herewith submit to the convention for its careful consideration.

DRAFT OF A PLAN FOR THE AFFILIATION OF THE I. O. B. B. WITH THE EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE.

The purpose of this plan is to enable the I. O. B. B. to co-operate with the Educational League in prosecuting the projects of that Society. The Educational League was organized for the purpose of placing an opportunity for higher education within the reach of capable young men and women, who, by reason of the loss of one or both parents, lack the necessary means of achieving an ambition in that direction. The method pursued has been to enlist children in this work who contribute One Dollar annually to the support of the League. In this way, not only are orphans assisted in obtaining higher education, but also the children enrolled as members are benefited by the consciousness of being helpful to others. This feature of the League's organization should be neither abandoned nor lessened in importance; and the plan which is here proposed does not in any way conflict with this idea. The plan, in general, looks to the creation of such a relationship between the Order and the League as will enable the latter to obtain the benefit of the power, prestige and organization facilities of the Order in the promotion of the objects for which the League has been formed, retaining at the same time, the central idea of the children's connection, as above referred to.

The elements of the plan are as follows:

First.—The League shall retain its identity and autonomy.

Second.—Each District Grand Lodge in the United States shall have the right to elect two of its members to serve on the Board of Governors of the League, and the President and Secretary of the Executive Committee shall be members of said Board by virtue of their respective offices.

Third.—Each Lodge of the Order shall be required to constitute a committee of three from among its members, of which the President of the Lodge shall be one, who shall act as the local representatives of the League charged with the duty of furthering the aims of the League under the executive authority thereof, it being the object and intent that these committees of the Lodges shall excite the interest of the members of such Lodges in the work of the League, not only with reference to the collection of funds, but especially with reference to the seeking-out of eligible young men and women worthy of the assistance which the League can afford. The Lodges, through their respective committees, should investigate and report on the qualifications and situation of such subjects for the League's consideration and should also give such personal aid to the beneficiaries, by way of advice and supervision, as the conditions of the case seem to demand. Provided, however, that the League may retain such representatives as it now has, or appoint further representatives at its discretion to act in conjunction with the Lodges.

Fourth.—The Executive Committee of the Order shall from time to time make such contributions to the funds of the League as shall appear to them advisable. This, not because of any present need of financial assistance, but rather to give the Order an additional incentive to keep alive its interest in the League, and to place upon the officers of the Order a greater responsibility to maintain a vigilant activity in the conduct of the League's affairs.

THE FLOODS IN FRANCE, JANUARY 1910.

In the latter part of January 1910, the press brought news of great floods in Paris and other parts of France. Judging by the published report it appeared that financial help would be necessary. With the consent of the Executive Committee I cabled to the Grand Lodge of Germany on Jan. 29th to forward to Paris Five Thousand Francs on behalf of the Executive Committee for the sufferers if it was found that money was necessary. I was informed by cable and later by letter that no further aid was needed, therefore the money was not forwarded.

CONCLUSION.

Five years have thus passed since the last Convention; and in the passing they have unfolded the mysteries that lay hidden within them. To the immutable record of things accomplished, of progress made, we must look and judge therefrom, whether the hope of five years ago has been attained. In laying down the responsibilities with which you honored me, I shall be content if in your judgment of my stewardship you shall have found me faithful of purpose and diligent of effort in the great cause for which our Order stands, though lacking in the wisdom and ability necessary properly to guide its destinies.

Brightly, more luminous, the future glows with promise for our Order. It cannot fail of glorious achievement, for it is the incarnation of a spirit, which after long struggle with the baser passions of men, is emerging triumphant from the conflict and swiftly now it is rushing through the world and teaching all men to own its sway—the spirit of the brotherhood of man!

ADOLF KRAUS,
President.

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